



Tanya Lane  
Acting Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN**

## MINUTES

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Conference Room L-101 Lower Level – Town Hall**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**February 9, 2016**

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Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Councilor Anest  
Councilor Budrejko  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett - Absent  
Councilor Manke  
Councilor Marocchini  
Councilor Nagel  
Councilor Serra  
Mayor Zartarian

### **Staff Attendees:**

Tanya Lane, Acting Town Manager  
Ann Harter, Director of Finance  
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration  
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

### **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

Leanne Manke – 112 Northwood Road, Mrs. Manke thanked the Councilors for their volunteer work and efforts. She reminded the Council that they were elected to serve the town and stated that she is not in favor of a “super committee” to oversee all building projects, including the Town Hall and Library projects. She stated that such committee would become bogged down and would be redundant. She stated that the CIP Committee acts as an oversight to the various projects and also remarked that the Council is the ultimate oversight committee.

Rose Lyons – 46 Elton Drive, Ms. Lyons noted that there must be some accountability once the CIP Committee decides where money is to be spent. She stated that a staff person should be allocated to do so. She also asked the State Legislators in attendance about the cleanup of Mill and Piper Brooks and the recent issues with DEEP in that area. Ms. Lyons asked the legislators to look into funding for flood control projects.

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Councilor Marocchini moved to amend the agenda to allow for the State Legislators item to occur prior to old business. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

## **STATE LEGISLATOR DISCUSSION**

State Senator Paul Doyle and Legislators Tony Guerrero, Gary Byron and Rick Lopes addressed the Council. Senator Doyle stated that this year has been among the most challenging of his career and indicated that the State is facing many spending cuts, especially in community services. He addressed the issues with the DMV, which was a private job.

Rep. Guerrero echoed the Senator's comments and stated that he will do his best to preserve municipal aid and stated that education cost sharing should be safe. He indicated that there are potential issues to address with the DMV and stated that it may end up the municipalities' responsibility to handle uncollected vehicle taxes as the State may discontinue disallowing vehicle registrations when taxes are due. He stated that the State may go after 3M (the vendor for the new DMV system) if necessary and stated that he is proud of DMV staff for handling a difficult situation.

Rep. Byron commented that it is important to make sure that money designated for transportation stays in transportation. He also expressed concerns over cuts to human services related items. He stated that affected individuals and families must come first and stated that it can take individuals years to adapt to their environment and to trust their caregivers. He stated that he has spent a lot of time advocating for the IDD caucus.

Rep. Lopes stated that there is a harsh reality to the budget but stated that the Governor's proposed budget is not the final budget; there is a lot of work to do. He indicated, however, that there could be a reduction of services everywhere. He remarked that it is very difficult to decide where to make the cuts, as there is no good place to do so.

Councilor Budrejko inquired about Senate Bill 19 (Transit Oriented Development) and asked whether it is similar to the House Bill 6851, which was opposed by the Town. She expressed concern over the bill and indicated that the Town has stated very clearly that it wants local land use control. Rep. Lopes stated that it is a Governor's bill and was not brought forth by the representatives. Senator Doyle stated that he has not seen the bill but it will be addressed and stated that he would be in opposition to it. Rep. Guerrero stated that the bill will go through its due process. Rep. Byron stated that he is opposed to the bill and is in favor of local municipal control of Transit Oriented Development. Rep. Lopes indicated that there will be a public hearing for this bill, as required for all Governor's bills.

Councilor Anest expressed concern that the Governor is putting the responsibility of the busway's success on the backs of the towns. She asked that any potential legislation that could impact Newington be brought to the Town's attention. Councilor Marocchini inquired about any efforts at the State level to build revenue and/or attract businesses. Rep. Guerrero stated that the State could do a better job of enticing businesses to the State and indicated that owners need predictability and stability. He stated that the State must be more proactive with working with owners, along with maintaining checks and balances.

Reps. Guerrero and Byron urged Councilors and residents to attend and speak at public hearings. Rep. Lopes stated that many large companies pay little to no corporate taxes to the State, leaving property owners and workers to pick up the slack. He stated that corporations cannot expect to come to the State for free and the State has to be very careful to be fair about entering businesses. He stated that despite reports of businesses leaving the State, there has actually been an influx of skilled workers in the State.

Councilor Budrejko noted that the Governor is not planning to give up the transportation plan and she remarked that a transportation system alone is not going to save the State. She asked whether the transportation plan will be the State's savior. Sen. Doyle replied that the plan should be scaled back and stated that tolls and other parts of the plan will be difficult to pass and will not realistically achieve the needed revenue. He stated that he is in favor of a scaled back plan. Rep. Guerrero stated that it is difficult to raise money for a large infrastructure plan but remarked that it is important to maintain and update the current infrastructure. He stated that while the State used to rely on Federal funding for infrastructure improvements, the Federal government hasn't raised the gas tax since 1993 and stated that

infrastructure improvements are tremendously expensive. He stated that the transportation panel will report to the legislator about tolls, gas tax and sales tax increases. He reiterated the importance of a top-notch infrastructure.

Councilor Nagel inquired about unfunded mandates and municipal grants. Rep. Lopes stated that while no one likes unfunded mandates they are there for a reason. He requested that the Town identify and relay to them any potential unfunded mandates that could be revised or removed. He indicated that many large mandates, such as special education, are very important. Sen. Doyle stated that there are several grants of which the Town staff are aware, such as the landfill closure grant. He indicated that the Town should apply for grants, as the funding could go away if the Town doesn't apply. Rep. Guerrero stated that his goal is to make the Town as whole as possible with funding.

Mayor Zartarian inquired about regional incentives. Rep. Guerrero stated that there is a control issue with regionalization in general. He stated that the State is looking at it and that there may be more in the future. He stated that the towns need to be willing to work together. Sen. Doyle stated that the Speaker is a proponent of regionalization but agreed that there is a dilemma between saving money and each municipality wanting local control. Rep. Byron indicated that he has heard mixed views of regionalization and stated that the concern is that each town will lose its individuality. Councilor Anest expressed concern about public safety in regards to regionalization of dispatch, law enforcement, etc. Sen. Doyle also stated that there is opposition to regionalizing education. He stated that voluntary incentives have been more successful.

#### **IV      CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A.      FY 2016-17 Special Budget Meeting Schedule**

The Council discussed the upcoming budget meeting schedule as posted on the Town website. The Council also set two Public Hearing dates as follows.

**Councilor DelBuono moved the following:**

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council, pursuant to Section 805 of the Newington Town Charter, will hold two Public Hearings on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-2017. These Public Hearings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall (unless otherwise indicated) as follows:**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016                      Town Manager's Proposed Budget**

**Thursday, March 31, 2016                      Town Council's Proposed Budget**

Motion seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

Councilor Anest moved the following:

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby alters its meeting schedule by cancelling the April 12, 2016 regular meeting.**

Motion seconded by Councilor Serra. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

##### **B.      Town Center Streetscape Project Phase VI CIP Transfer**

Director of Finance Ann Harter indicated that the grant requires a match and stated that this transfer is to cover the match.

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

**CERTIFICATION:**

**In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in the Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund, the amounts listed below:**

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
88114	Public Building Resurfacing Program	\$70,000

**Ann J. Harter, Director of Finance**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund to the following accounts in Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund:**

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
88628	Engineering Services – Town Center Streetscape	\$70,000

Motion seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

**C. Discussion: Disband Project Building Committees**

Mayor Zartarian indicated that the Council is looking into restructuring certain building committees. He stated that the consensus is that the Library Building Committee should continue and also stated that the Town Hall Building Committee is awaiting the results of the most recent Town Hall engineering study. He stated that he is looking into what other towns do in terms of building committees.

**D. Blight Ordinance Subcommittee**

Councilor Anest moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby creates a Blight Ordinance Subcommittee, consisting of three members of the Town Council, to review and consider amendments to the Town Code of Ordinances Chapter 182: Blighted Premises.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

**That the Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:**

## Blight Ordinance Subcommittee

Name	Address	Party	Term
NTC REP: Tim Manke	65 Rosewood Drive	R	NTC Term
NTC Rep: David Nagel	1175 Willard Avenue	R	NTC Term
NTC Rep: Diana Serra	237 Reservoir Road	D	NTC Term

Motion seconded by Councilor Budrejko. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent).

### E. Update: Deming Young Farm

Mayor Zartarian stated that the Council is awaiting supplemental materials and Town Attorney review of the Young Farm soil situation and indicated that the item will appear on a future Council agenda for discussion.

### F. Town Manager Search Subcommittee

Mayor Zartarian stated that the Council is going to establish a Town Manager Search Subcommittee, to which he will appoint members.

Councilor Budrejko moved the following:

#### **RESOLVED:**

**The Newington Town Council hereby establishes a Council Town Manager Search Subcommittee composed of three Council members to provide oversight in the search for a new Town Manager and directs the Mayor to make appointments to said committee. The committee shall work with a consultant selected by the Town Council to propose a scope of professional recruitment services and a selection process for a new Town Manager for approval by the Town Council.**

Motion seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

Mayor Zartarian appointed Councilors Nagel, Klett and Anest to the Subcommittee and indicated that he will serve ex officio on the Subcommittee.

## **V. DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS**

### B. Discussion: ICMA-RC 401 Money Purchase Plan & Trust Restatement Adoption

Director of Finance Ann Harter stated that the ICMA has had its three plans reviewed by the IRS and stated that the documents have been updated in accordance with IRS regulations. She stated that the Council has to adopt the updated plans. Mayor Zartarian indicated that there will be a resolution on the next Council agenda for consideration.

### C. Kellogg Eddy House Lease

The item was tabled by consensus and will appear on an upcoming agenda.

### D. Acting Town Manager Agreement

Councilor Nagel moved to waive the rules to consider the item. Motion seconded by Councilor Manke.

Public comment – none.

Motion to waive the rules passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**The Newington Town Council establishes the following with regard to its appointment of Tanya D. Lane as Acting Town Manager:**

1. While serving as Acting Town Manager, Tanya D. Lane shall receive a salary of \$4,847.00 biweekly retroactive to January 7, 2016 with a review and possible adjustment upon renewal of the appointment. All Ms. Lane's existing benefits will continue, modified as necessary to reflect the change in salary from her position as Town Clerk.
2. While serving as Acting Town Manager, Ms. Lane shall have the unrestricted use of a town vehicle. The Town shall be responsible for all costs relating to the operation and maintenance of said vehicle.
3. Ms. Lane shall have the right to return to her position of Town Clerk at the conclusion of her term as Acting Town Manager, or upon removal as Acting Town Manager, except in the case of a for cause removal.
4. The Town shall furnish and provide Ms. Lane with insurance protection including comprehensive general liability and errors and omissions coverage applicable to all acts or omissions arising out of her employment as Acting Town Manager.
5. The Council reserves the right to remove the Acting Town Manager at any time for cause.

Motion seconded by Councilor DelBuono.

Councilor DelBuono indicated that the Council has waived the rules because Acting Town Manager Lane has been acting in this capacity for over a month. She remarked that ATM Lane is doing a wonderful job.

Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

## **VI RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

Councilor Anest moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment(s):**

**Town Manager Evaluation Committee**

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
NTC Rep: Carol Anest	30 Harding Avenue	D	NTC Term	

**Audit Committee**

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
NTC Rep: Diana Serra	237 Reservoir Road	D	NTC Term	
NTC Rep:	1175 Willard Avenue	R	NTC Term	

<b>Dave Nagel</b>				
<b>NTC Rep:</b> <b>Gail Budrejko</b>	<b>21 Isabelle Terrace</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	

Motion seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent).

## **VII TAX REFUNDS**

Councilor Budrejko moved the following:

### **RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$1,053.48 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.**

Motion seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

## **VIII MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Councilor Manke moved to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2016 Special Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

Councilor Manke moved to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2016 Special Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2016 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

## **IX TOWN MANAGER REPORTS**

Acting Town Manager Lane indicated that the Fire Department Tour is scheduled for February 16 and inquired whether the Councilors will attend. The Council agreed by consensus to hold the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Zartarian noted that the Town Manager has received the Board of Education’s proposed budget, which will be included in the Town Manager’s proposed budget.

## **X. COUNCIL LIASION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Budrejko indicated that she attended the Streetscape VI presentation:

- The goal is to encourage pedestrian, bike and bus use of the area
- The project will update the area to the current Market Square design
- There are three options on the table – to be discussed by the Committee
- The Council will take action on the Committee’s recommendation
- Construction is to commence in 2016
- Public feedback will be welcome through February 16

Councilor Nagel indicated that he attended the following meetings:

- CRCOG: regarding State Legislative agenda, CT FastTrak and rail service, shared services projects, strategic use of information technology in the State and education funding, particularly unfunded mandates.
- Library Renovations PBC: Reviewed space needs and assessment from Library staff and public information regarding the project.
- Library Board of Directors: the Director has researched other area library renovations, the Library has a Pinterest account and Friends of the Library has held its Wine and Beer social, of which 225 people attended.
- Commission on Aging and Disabled: The Senior Center now offers wifi and the Commission discussed the use of door counters and installation of a shed (to be installed as a Boy Scout project). The March meeting is cancelled.
- NCTV: continuing to upgrade software and equipment to broadcast in HD, as will be required in the near future.

Councilor DelBuono indicated that she attended the CIP meeting (with other CIP members):

- The Committee has reviewed all requested projects and has finalized the list to bring forward to the Council.

Councilor Anest indicated that she and other Councilors attended the MDC meeting:

- Residents are encouraged to attend meetings or watch on NCTV as the project will have an impact on traffic and noise in the area.

## **XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Alan Paskewich - Cambria Avenue, Mr. Paskewich requested that any public acts that come before the State Legislator be sent to the Town/Council for discussion. He asked that such documents be scanned, if possible, and sent to the Council/residents. He endorsed Acting Town Manager Lane to continue as permanent Town Manager, if she wishes. He stated that she is focused, thorough and prompt in her position as Town Clerk and her knowledge of the area would suit her well to be Town Manager.

Rose Lyons – 46 Elton Drive, Ms. Lyons spoke about State public hearings and stated that a lot could be done in terms of communication. She stated that as a resident she finds it appalling how much goes through at the State level without residents' knowledge. She reiterated her earlier comments about the Mill and Piper brooks. She inquired about whether the TPZ will bring one or all three Streetscape plans to the Council for consideration. She stated that committees need more direction from the Council. She thanked recently retired Assistant Town Clerk Toni St. Pierre for her service.

## **XII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Anest announced that the Newington St. Patrick's Day Committee will have its annual fundraiser on February 21 and stated that the Town's Honorary Person of the Year is Dr. Doug MacGilpin.

Councilor Budrejko remarked that the State Representative's' remarks about the budget were sobering and stated that the Council will have to keep this in mind with its budget deliberations.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Councilor Nagel moved to go into Executive Session re: Collective Bargaining at 8:52 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Budrejko. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent).

All Councilors present at the regular meeting, ATM Lane, and Labor Attorney Brian Giantonio.



Councilor Budrejko moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan  
Asst. to the Town Manager